



TOWN OF BEAUX ARTS VILLAGE

TOWN BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2011

WABA Finance Committee	7:00pm	Wednesday	November 30 th	Kendall
<u>WABA BOARD MTG.</u>	7:00pm	Thursday	December 1 st	Miller
WABA Christmas Ship	8:45pm	Saturday	December 3 rd	Beach
<u>PLANNING COMMISSION</u>	7:00pm	Thursday	December 8 th	Harpster
WABA Ladies Holiday Social	7:00pm	Monday	December 12 th	Dempster
<u>TOWN COUNCIL MTG.</u>	7:00pm	Tuesday	December 13 th	Leider
WABA Winter Dinner Planning	10:00am	Wednesday	December 14 th	Ryals
WABA Finance Committee	7:00pm	Wednesday	December 14 th	TBD

Town WEBSITE: www.beauxarts-wa.gov

SALES TAX NUMBER: #1703

E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

Town Hall: townhall@beauxarts-wa.gov

Building Department: bldgdept@beauxarts-wa.gov

Mayor: mayor@beauxarts-wa.gov

Town Council: council@beauxarts-wa.gov

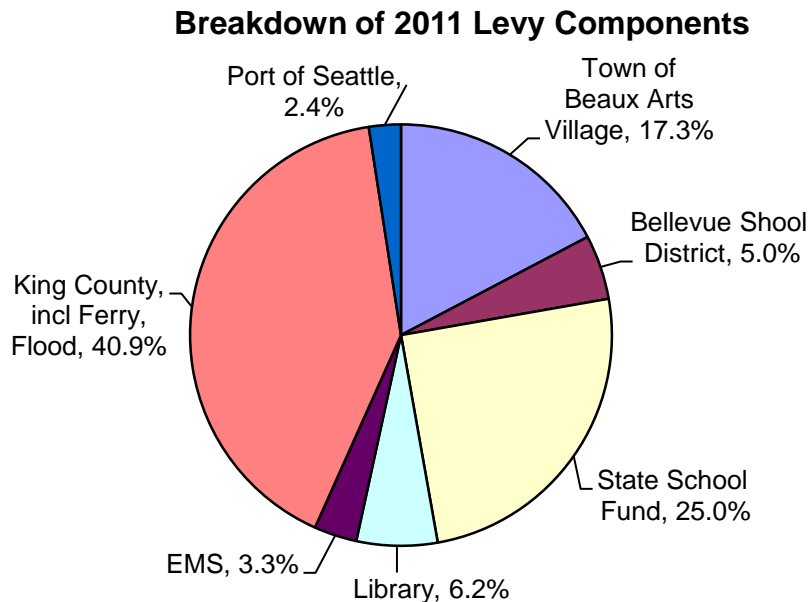
COUNCIL BUSINESS: At the November 8, 2011 meeting, the Council:

- Reviewed the completion of the 108th Ave SE Improvements project. The Council wishes to express its thanks to Tom Stowe for managing this project on behalf of the Town, to Aaron Sharp for assisting with the technical aspects, to Donna Stowe for spearheading efforts to obtain grant funding for this project, and to the entire 108th Ave Committee, including, Susan Kennedy, Tim McGrath, Ann Mari Simonsen, and Peter Bowen. The consensus of opinion among residents and non-residents alike is that the path is a very welcome addition to the 108th corridor, extending the feel of Beaux Arts Village to our eastern boundary and distinguishing us from Bellevue.
- Reviewed a Proposed Budget for 2012. This was the Council's second of two public hearings regarding the budget and property-tax levy. The final budget will be adopted December 13, 2011.
- Revised the Town's Fee Resolution to include a \$250 fee for commercial ROW permits.
- Passed an ordinance increasing the Town's Property Tax Levy by the full 1% allowed by state statute. The Council spent a considerable amount of time debating whether to forego this year's property tax increase, which amounts to only \$1435 or about \$12 per household, but decided to enact this small increase as a prudent measure for protecting the Town's reserves given the current economy. (Please see the related article below concerning Property Taxes.)
- Authorized the Mayor to execute an Interlocal Agreement with Bellevue Fire Department for continued fire-protection services.
- Authorized the Mayor to execute an Interlocal Agreement with King County for providing road maintenance services. This agreement allows the Town to partner with King County for performing road maintenance when it is cost effective to do so.
- Passed Ordinance Nos. 389 and 390 to clean up two ordinance discrepancies so that the Beaux Arts Village Municipal Code can be completed and adopted by the end of this year.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be held at **7:00pm on Tuesday, December 13, 2011** at Richard Leider's house.

A PRIMER ON BEAUX ARTS PROPERTY TAXES

The Town's 2012 budget incorporates a 1% property tax increase as allowed by state statute. This amounts to a total of \$1,435 for the entire Town – about \$12 per household on average. Unlike many cities in Washington, Beaux Arts finances are in good order, so why is the Town increasing property taxes? The Council remains concerned about managing the Town's reserves given the current economic climate and believes it is prudent to increase the Town's property tax levy to protect these reserves. This chart depicts how your property-tax payment is split among the various taxing agencies.



If the Town only increased property taxes by 1% why does my tax bill increase by more than that? Your property taxes are increasing because of other taxing agencies outside of the Town's control and/or because of changes in your property's assessed value relative to the total assessed value of property in Beaux Arts Village. Many of the increases that are beyond the Town's control are not subject to the same 1% limits as the Town's increases.

My home's assessed value just skyrocketed! The King County Assessor's office is in charge of determining each of our property's assessed value; the Town has no control or say in this process. In times when property values are changing, changes in the assessed value tend to lag changes in the market place. For more information about property assessments, please visit the County Assessor's website at www.kingcounty.gov/Assessor/QuickAnswers/Levies.aspx.

My home's assessed value increased and I'm now paying a lot more to the Town; what does Beaux Arts do with this new money? While it may seem otherwise, the reality is that you are not paying a lot more to the Town. In 2012, the Town will receive about \$1,435 in new property-tax revenue from its base property tax amount; divided among the 117 homes in Beaux Arts that amounts to an average increase of about \$12 per household. Of course, not everyone's assessment changes by the same amount. As mentioned above, some property owner's assessments go down, while some are unchanged or modestly increase. As the value of an individual home increases, an individual homeowner may end up paying a higher proportion of the total property tax amount collected.

It is important to emphasize that an increase in assessed value does not result in any “windfall” or new revenue for the Town. If your home’s assessed value increases, you may find that you are paying a higher proportion of the total tax amount collected from property taxes. But, by law, the Town cannot increase that total collected amount by more than \$1,435 in 2012.

How does the Council set the property-tax levy?

In the fall the Mayor and Council work to develop a budget that accurately reflects the anticipated revenues and expenditures on a line-by-line basis for the coming year. An important part of that review is a look at how those revenues and expenditures may be affected over the next three to five years and at what level the Town should maintain its reserves to ensure that the Town remains financially healthy and viable. Because of the uncertainty in the current economic and because about almost 90% of the Town's revenue comes from either property or sales taxes (a reality that the Town cannot change), the Council believes the 1% property-tax increase is a prudent measure.

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED! The Council is considering changes to the Beaux Arts Animal Control code that would allow residents to keep a limited number of **chickens** on their property. To give this issue the due diligence it requires, they need your input in the form of comments, suggestions, concerns, questions, etc. They also want to know if other changes should also be considered, such as allowing **beekeeping**. Please forward your comments to Clerk-Treasurer Sue Ann Spens either by email at townhall@beauxarts-wa.gov, in writing via the Town mailbox, or by phone at 425.454.8580. **YOUR INPUT IS A VITAL PART OF THIS DISCUSSION!**

ELECTION RESULTS: The November Election results are in for Beaux Arts Town Council. Matt Leber was re-elected for another term in Position 4. John Gillem was elected for Position 2, beginning in January replacing Steve Eulau, whose term expires 12/31/11.

PLANT DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE 108th AVENUE WALKING PATH: We hope everyone has noticed that Beaux Arts has completed the project to improve our portion of the ROW along 108th Ave SE. Kudos to Tom and Donna Stowe, Aaron Sharp, Susan Kennedy, Tim McGrath, Ann Mari Simonsen, and Peter Bowen for their work on bringing this project to fruition. To further enhance this area, the Town would like to increase the number of native plantings around the drainage swale. If you have native shrubs or ground cover that you wish to share from your yard, please contact Councilmember Stowe at tstowe@beauxarts-wa.gov.

WSDOT TOLLING UPDATE: The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) appreciates those that have shared information about SR 520 Bridge tolling on their websites or via their networks. As you may be aware, their schedule has changed. Please note:

- * Tolling on the SR 520 Bridge across Lake Washington will start sometime in December.
- * WSDOT is in the process of testing the all-electronic system to ensure that all components are fully operational, reliable and able to handle more than 100,000 daily transactions before tolling starts.
- * To pay the lowest toll rate, it's critical that people set up their *Good To Go!* accounts now so they receive their *Good To Go!* passes before tolling starts.
- * Don't wait until the last minute! Beat the rush by signing up for a *Good To Go!* account now.

For further questions about *Good to Go!* or tolling in Washington, please don't hesitate to contact them at (206) 682-7708 or www.goodtogotolling@wsdot.wa.gov.

DISHWASHER HELP! Water Department Supervisor Bob Durr is seeking any information from residents on how they deal with the inevitable build up of minerals, film, etc. in dishwashers and on dishes. If you have a trick or additive, e.g. TANG, that you have found useful, please send your suggestions to Clerk-Treasurer Sue Ann Spens at townhall@beauxarts-wa.gov so she can summarize everything and forward it to Bob.

YELLOW PAGES: Please pick up your September copy of the *Greater Eastside US West Dex* at the mailbox stands if you haven't already. As noted previously, if you no longer want a hard copy of the yellow pages delivered, there is a new law and website in Washington to get off the mailing list for all the various yellow page books. You must individually "opt out" directly by registering at: <http://www.yellowpagesoptout.com/>. As always, if you need assistance, please see Angela Kulp.

FALL TOWN CLEANUP: A great big thank you for all the support again this year at the fall Town Cleanup, November 5th. We got lucky with perfect weather. We have new plantings, cleaner and clearer walkways, and prettier mailboxes. It's amazing the mountains [of wood chips] we can move when we team up on it. And most of all, hopefully everyone enjoyed the excuse to chat with old neighbors and meet new ones. See you again in the spring! – Mike Hillberg

IN MEMORIAM: Previous villager, "**Mardie**" (Marzelie) **Dougan** died October 18, 2011 in Illinois, where she lived; she was 89 years old. Mardie was born in Louisiana and graduated from high school in Washington DC. She met her future husband, Jim Dougan, a US Navy officer from Seattle, at Pearl Harbor and was there during the attack. Mardie and Jim married after the war and settled in their beloved Beaux Arts Village home in 1967 where Mardie lived until 2003, and where the Leffingwell's home now sits. Mardie graduated from the UW and volunteered at St. Francis House in Seattle for over three decades, devoting countless hours helping the poor. Mardie was preceded in death by her husband Jim in 1987, and by her only child Jim in 2010. Mardie is survived by her daughter-in-law Valeri Farmer-Dougan PhD, her four grandchildren, a nephew and a niece. Our sympathies go out to her family and friends.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED / NOMINATIONS OPEN: The Town's Planning Commission is looking for a resident to replace Scott Harpster, whose term is expiring this month. Interested parties may contact Mayor Leider. The Western Academy of Beaux Arts' Board of Trustees is seeking volunteer members or nominations for two Board positions whose current terms expire in February, 2012. Interested parties may contact WABA President Dan Bridges.

WABA BOARD MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Western Academy Board of Trustees will be held at **7:00pm on Thursday, December 1, 2011** at the Miller residence. Discussion of the 2012 Budget will continue, as well as discussions on Guest Member by-law amendment and Shoreline Restoration. Please check the mailbox stands for the full agenda, or the document library on the WABA website (www.waba1908.com). All are welcome to attend, or submit comments in writing ahead of time. Please call or email the WABA Clerk if you would like to submit something.

WABA FINANCE COMMITTEE: The WABA Finance Committee meets every other Wednesday at 7:00pm. *The meeting this Wednesday 11/30 will be at the Kendall residence.* Please check the WABA website for the location of each meeting, or call Kristin Mange, WABA Clerk. All WABA members are welcome to attend.

WELCOME: Please welcome Jim and Karla Bennett and their two sons Andrew and Thomas. They recently purchased their home from the Welsh's.

CHRISTMAS SHIP: Please plan to attend the annual Beaux Arts Christmas Ship Bonfire on **Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011**. Please arrive early at **8:20 pm** to sing some traditional Christmas carols, warm up near the amazing bonfire with your family and friends, sip some hot chocolate and visit with your neighbors. It is on a Saturday this year, so hopefully there will be plenty of adults and children attending! The Christmas Ship and its entourage will arrive promptly at 8:45pm and depart at 9:05pm for their beautiful annual choral performance. Don't miss this tradition! It is a great way to begin your holiday festivities!

ANNUAL COOKIE EXCHANGE / LADIES HOLIDAY SOCIAL: All village ladies are invited to attend the annual *Ladies Holiday Social* from **7:00-9:00pm on Monday, December 12th at Terry Dempster's home**. Due to not locating a "cookie coordinator" in time, we will not have the "cookie exchange" part of this annual tradition this year. However, if you still want to bake, you can contact Angela Kulp with the number and type of cookies you plan to bring to Terry's for social tasting! Anyone needing to drive, can park in the Dempster's driveway as well as the off road shoulder parking nearby, or at the nearby water tower.

BEACH MASTER REPORT: It's time again for Snowflake Lane BAV style. The Christmas Ships are coming Saturday Dec. 3rd. Don't forget your kids, as it's not a school night! Good cheer and a beach fire should keep you warm. I will be turning the water off to the bathroom's, and Docks A and B after the Christmas ships. See you on the beach! – Forrest Kulp

WOODLANDS REPORT: WABA has finished its annual hazardous tree removals and replanting. The replacement trees that were chosen should not surpass 30 feet within the next 30 years, if ever. You may have noticed that the resulting wood was stacked and ready for splitting at the spring work party. We ran short of fire wood this year and will not be able to give any away to villagers. Please do not take wood for your own use. Thank you! – Sheila Justus

WINTER DINNER: Save the Date! The Winter Dinner will take place on the evening of **Saturday, February 4, 2012 at Maggiano's**. Invitations and meeting details will be mailed in January. Volunteers are needed to help plan this annual members meeting. Please come to an informational meeting to learn how you can be involved. The meeting will be held Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 10 a.m. at the home of Becky Ryals. If this is not a convenient time for you to meet, please call (425-451-2477) or email Becky and other arrangements will be made. If you do plan to attend, an RSVP at beckyryals@comcast.net would be appreciated. Photos are also being sought for the slideshow. If you have any, please send to Janet Griswold.

WABA CENTENNIAL PLAQUES: Tim McGrath is helping the History Committee by installing our (7) centennial plaques this winter for all homes recognized for their 100 years here thus far. Some are already up (like the Renfro house at Tom Taugher's in photo below). We plan to have them all installed in time for a spring commemoration ceremony. Thanks, Tim! See Julia Morse or Angela Kulp for more information, or if you'd like to assist the History Committee with filing or scrapbooks!



TOWN BUILDING NEWS- The following permits were issued in November by the Beaux Arts Building Dept.:
10010 SE 29th St. Tree Removal
10712 SE 30th St. Tree Removal
10304 SE 29th St. Mechanical replacement

NEED TO CONTACT TOWN STAFF?

Contact Clerk-Treasurer Sue Ann Spens if you have questions about issues before the Council, general Town business, or Water-Department concerns.

Email: townhall@beauxarts-wa.gov

Phone: (425) 454-8580

Mail: 10550 SE 27th Street, Beaux Arts, WA 98004.

Contact Deputy Clerk Angela Kulp if you have questions or submissions for this newsletter, building department, permits, variances, or issues before the Planning Commission or Hearing Examiner.

Email: bldgdept@beauxarts-wa.gov

Phone: (425) 269-6985

Mail: 10550 SE 27th Street, Beaux Arts, WA 98004.

To report Block Watch concerns, contact:

Town Marshal Walter Scott: (425) 454-2573

Deputy Marshal Scott Harpster: (425) 746-0757

NEED TO CONTACT WABA?

WABA Members may contact WABA Clerk Kristin Mange for any concerns or questions you have about the Western Academy of Beaux Arts, regarding the beach or its reservations, parking stickers, green book, WABA social events or issues before the Board of Trustees.

Email: wabaclerk@gmail.com

Phone: 425-502-7382

Mail: 10010 SE 28th Place, Beaux Arts, WA 98004